

JC18 Recd UPTO 1889620
19 JUL 2001

Atty. Docket No. BEN02 P-345
Express Mail No. EL670821812US
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : John P. Biel, Jr. et al.

For : VACUUM INSULATED EXHAUST TREATMENT DEVICES WITH
RADIALLY-EXTENDING SUPPORT STRUCTURES

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 CFR §§1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed simultaneously with the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents are submitted herewith along with Form PTO-1449. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If it should be determined that any of the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

09/889620

JG12 Rec'd PCT/PTO 19 JUL 2001

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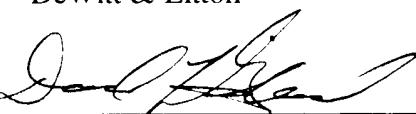
If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the
fee to our Deposit Account No. 16-2463.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN P. BIEL, JR. ET AL.

By: Price, Heneveld, Cooper,
DeWitt & Litton

July 19, '01
Date



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DLG/dlc

09/889620
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SHEET 1 OF 1

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| FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (REV. 2-32) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | | | | | | | | ATTY. DOCKET NO. BEN02 P-345 | APPLN. NO. |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary) | | | | | | | | APPLICANTS John P. Biel, Jr. et al. | |
| | | | | | | | | FILING DATE | GROUP |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | | | | | | | | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUB-CLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|------------------|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------|----------------|------|-------|-----------|----------------------------|
| | 5 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 12/26/1995 | Benson et al. | | | | |
| | 5 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 05/30/1995 | Usui et al. | | | | |
| | 5 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 01/10/1995 | Hitachi et al. | | | | |
| | 5 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 06/07/1994 | Benson et al. | | | | |
| | 5 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 11/17/1992 | Bainbridge | | | | |
| | 4 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 01/03/1989 | Cyron et al. | | | | |
| | 3 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 07/09/1974 | Schroder | | | | |
| | 3 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 01/26/1965 | Bovenkerk | | | | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | | | | | | | | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUB-CLASS | TRANSLATION |
|------------------|-----------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|------|---------|-------|-----------|-------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | YES NO |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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| EXAMINER INITIAL | | |
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| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.